

Esteemed President of the European Delegation,
Esteemed Undersecretary,
Esteemed President of our Prime Ministry Investigation Board,
Esteemed representatives of the European Council,
Very esteemed representatives of our Ministries,
Dear Participants,

With regard to the opening of Project on Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices, I would like to express my regards to all of our guests and participants here.

With its most common usage, corruption is defined as abusing public force for private interests. In addition to economic losses that corruption brings to society, corruption is a case with social costs socially. Matters such as avoiding the implementation of principles like human rights, superiority of democracy and law in the administration of country, corruption of public management, avoiding economic development are elements also affecting peace and welfare of society directly. For anti-corruption, an Action Plan consisting of 28 measure articles and based on *Improving Transparency and Strengthening Anti-Corruption Strategy* document accepted by our Council of Ministers in 2010 for anti-corruption has been prepared. 14 of the measures in this plan directly concern our Ministry. Our Ministry has been identified as the institution responsible for 4 measures and as the relevant institution for 10 measures. 3 measure articles which are under our responsibility are matters related to local governments. These are: reviewing the efficiency of audit mechanisms of local governments on their subsidiaries, determining ethical principles for people chosen via election in local governments and establishing monitoring mechanisms and improving transparency and accountability in local governments' transaction processes like reconstruction, registration and the similar. Preparations for reporting on these subjects have been completed. Through analysing and evaluating these reports, regulations required both in implementation and legislation shall be initiated quickly.

The 4th precaution article that we are responsible for is to improve transparency and to prevent corruption in non-governmental organizations. A report has been prepared, confirmed and taken under review on this subject too and in this area, two important changes have been made in our regulation on associations. One of them is to announce financial information of associations with non-profit status and of associations keeping the accounts on balance sheet basis; in addition, the others are the changes made with regard to aforementioned associations keeping their accounts on balance sheet basis, with annual gross income over 500 000 TL. A legal regulation to be made with regard to this subject is being planned, preparations have been completed and it has become ready to be presented to the Prime Ministry.

Esteemed guests,

The importance and contribution of investigation and audit in anti-corruption is great beyond doubt. Investigation and audit contribute to the establishment of legal and administrative structures, support strengthening of financial and institutional framework, decrease arbitrariness in the implementation of rules and law and contribute to the transparency in

public management. Within the framework of articles included in the action plan on improving transparency and strengthening anti-corruption, *the Project on Developing the Capacity of Interior Ministry Investigation Board within the scope of Anti-Corruption* under the body of local administrations has been implemented by our Ministry. Within the scope of this project, anti-corruption workshops in local administrations have been organized in 10 different provinces; 5 of the workshops organized in Ankara with the participation of 700 people in total. Local authorities, mayors, general secretaries of provincial special administrations and municipalities, directors of provincial councils and representatives from non-governmental organizations and other governmental institutions have participated in these workshops in the provinces.

Civil investigators and our local administration controllers have participated in the meeting that we have organized in Ankara. Within the same scope, another project implemented by our Civil Investigation Board of our Ministry is the *Ensuring Efficiency in Anti-Corruption and Improving Transparency in Public Works and Tender Processes of Local Governments Project*. With this project, analyzing public works and tender processes within the scope of anti-corruption and establishing guides for subject-based investigation are aimed. Another aim of this Project is to develop more fair, accountable, transparent and reliable understanding of administration by eliminating factors preventing transparency in public works and tender processes in local administrations.

Esteemed participants,

The success of audit is dependent on many factors. Most important of these factors can be listed as clear duty and authority, independency, sufficient resource and qualified personnel. Many works have been carried out for improving public management within the principles of legality, effectiveness, efficiency, prudence, transparency and accountability to prevent corruption in our country and efforts have been made. As a matter of fact, the target of audits is to ensure the implementation of these principles. Audits provide reliable information in public management with regard to what goes well or what goes wrong regarding works. However, audit methods efficient in catching an unintentional irregularity may be insufficient in determining intentional and disguised events, in other words, corruption. Prevention and disclosure of corruption, including intention and privacy, is a technical issue. To detect such corruption, it is required to infer from current data by utilizing specialization and technology. I believe that the *Project on Strengthening the Coordination of Anti-corruption Policies and Practices in Turkey* shall make important contributions in determining deficiencies in this area and making up for them.

I would like to express my thanks to all of those who have contributed to the preparation and the implementation of this important project, especially President of Prime Ministry Investigation Board and his Deputies, our colleagues assigned in investigation boards, all officials of our ministries and institutions, being present here as shareholders separately and I wish that this Project brings good luck and I express my regards and respect.

Esteemed Osman GÜNEŞ

*Republic of Turkey
Deputy Minister of Interior Ministry*